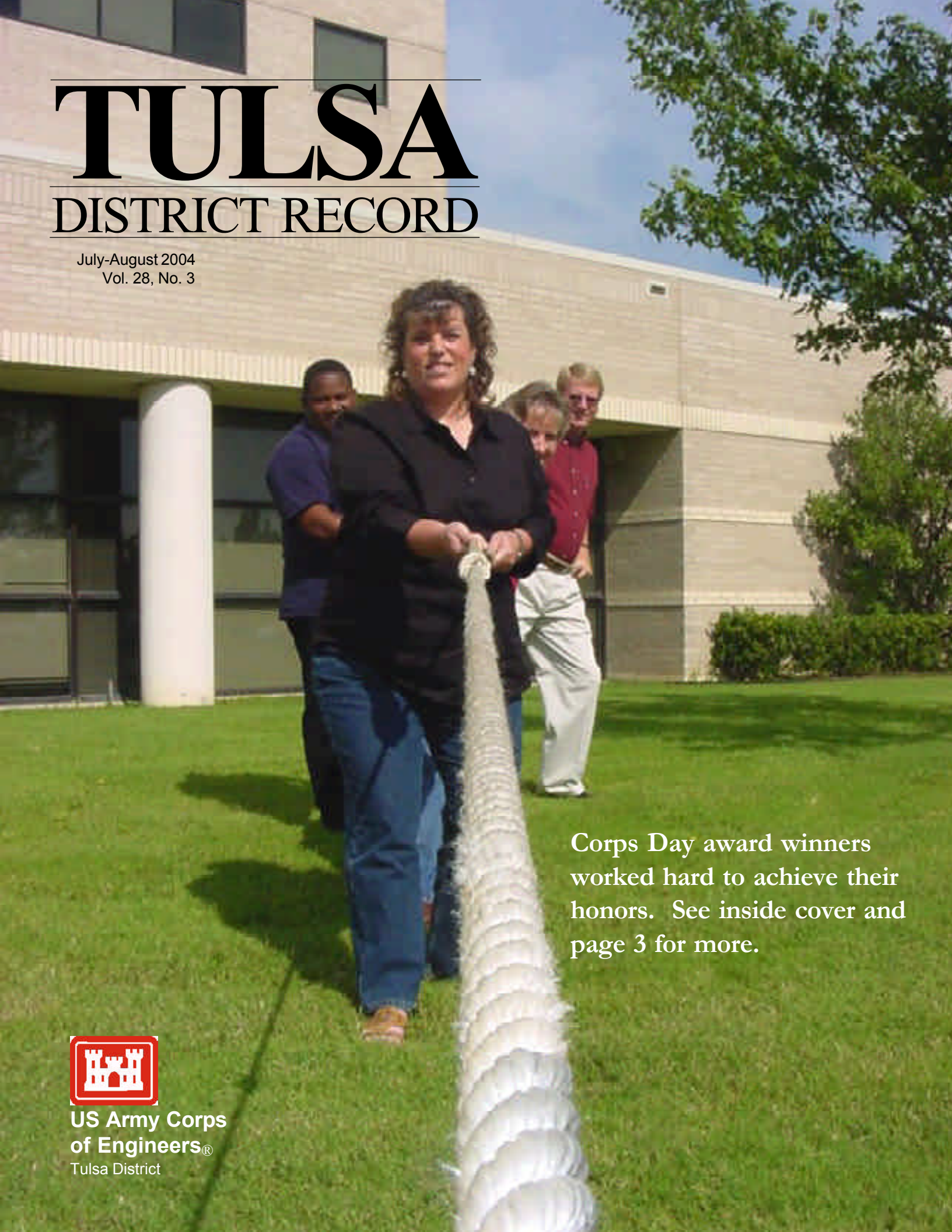


TULSA

DISTRICT RECORD

July-August 2004
Vol. 28, No. 3



Corps Day award winners
worked hard to achieve their
honors. See inside cover and
page 3 for more.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Tulsa District



Col. Miroslav Kurka
District Commander

Commander's Corner

It's hard to believe that I've been with the Tulsa District team for almost two months. The time has just flown by and I've been busy meeting many of you as well as some of our customers.

During this time, I've also spent two days with our division headquarters and we've hosted a Division Command Support Visit. I've used this time to form my initial assessment of the Tulsa District and it is unequivocally positive. The Tulsa District is a terrific organization with outstanding PEOPLE, excellent PROCESSES, and superior COMMUNICATIONS.

By far the greatest asset the district has is its PEOPLE. Tulsa District members are hard-working, professional, dedicated, motivated, and innovative. Many of you have even volunteered and served overseas under hazardous conditions, and I would be remiss if I failed to mention those who are currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan by name. Please pray with me for the safety and speedy return

of: Aaron Goldner, Andrew McVeigh, Randall Lewis, Jamie Hyslop, Ron Cuff, Ed Parisotto, and Ross Adkins.

Every day on every project, you are exceeding the standard and finding new ways to "JUST DO IT" better, faster, and at a lower cost. Because of your exceptional abilities and motivation, I'm confident that the Tulsa District has a very bright future. There may, however, be policies and procedures that prevent the district from fully caring for and developing its PEOPLE. For these reasons, I'm going to make focus on PEOPLE my personal number-one priority in command.

The Southwestern Division Command Support Visit verified that the district also has superb PROCESSES. We not only talk the Project Management Business Process talk, we actually are implementing PMBP in everything we do. We have great systems and lead the division in many performance metrics. Our excellent PROCESSES allow us to deliver outstanding projects and products to our customers at an excellent cost. Our challenge is to continue to implement USACE 2012 and to adapt our PROCESSES to a regional focus as the Southwestern Division continues to implement the Regional Business Center concept.

The last area I've looked at is the district's COMMUNICATIONS, both internal and external. We have great, open, and collaborative communications with our external customers, with our headquarters, and with the numerous stakeholders who have an interest in what we do, including our state and congressional delegates. We also appear to communicate well internally although as with any large organization, there is always room for improvement. Many times, the reasons for decisions and actions are not communicated across the entire organization. Also, some processes in the district may not be as open and transparent as they could be. This leads to "us" and "them"

See Column, page 16

From the cover Corps Day Awards Recognize Winners



Alicia Embrey

Front to back: Brenda Anderson, Marcus Ware, Kari Barr, and Randall Bratcher.

Brenda Anderson won the Technical & Administrative Employee of the Year, GS-08 and below honors.

Michael Ware received the Outstanding Community Service Award.

Kari Barr was named Customer Care Employee of the Year.

Randall Bratcher won the Employee of the Year honors.

Tulsa District Record

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District Commander
COL Miroslav Kurka

Public Affairs Officer
Edward Engelke

Editor
Mary Beth Hudson

Corps Day honors span the district



Dan Johnson of Central Oklahoma Resident Office is presented the Lt. Col. Mark Fritz Leadership Award by Col. Miroslav Kurka.



Phil Haubert of the Central Oklahoma Resident Office was named Hard Hat Employee of the Year. He received the same honor in 1995 when he was also named SWD's Hard Hat of the Year.



Clif Warren accepts the Project Delivery Team of the Year Award on behalf of the Gulf Nuclear Radiologic Clean-up Team.



Sharon Morris

Ken Reznicek, civil engineering technician in the Kansas Area Office, was named Technical and Administrative Employee of the Year, GS-09 and Above.

The Construction Management Excellence Award was presented to Dennis Johnson of Sheppard Resident Office.



Alicia Embrey

Randy Beauchamp of Design Branch was named Engineer of the Year for 2004. He is shown taking part in the blood drive held at the Tulsa office in August.

Correspondence and pictures tell the

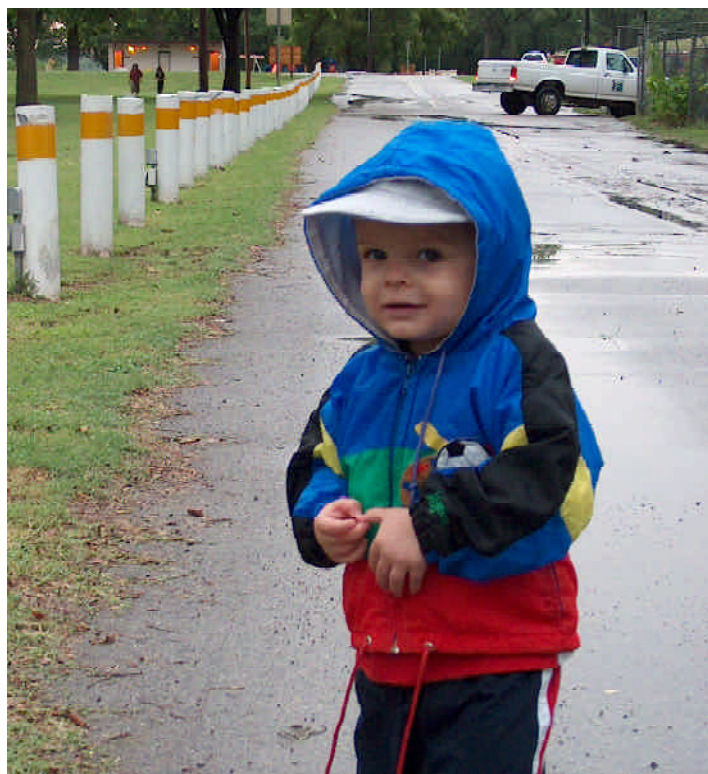
Editor's Note: Since the 2004 Corps Day picnic was rather unusual, a not-so-typical article seemed in order. This year's coverage is provided by excerpts from a retiree's letter and pictures (thanks to Gina Arteche and E&C).



1 Before the picnic, a member of the Tulsa Fire Department fills the dunk tank. His work and water will go for naught.



2 Employees, retirees, and soon-to-be retirees gathered for an afternoon of food and fun. If there were plans for an afternoon golf game, those plans were all wet. Pictured are Chuck Miles, Reggie Kikugawa, Larry Hogue, and Ron Barker.



4 "They sure were!" (thinks Quade Goodwin, equally charming almost-two-year-old grandson of Dot Danley, Contracting Division.)



5 The entire site is waterlogged, so the afternoon events are cancelled . . .

story of the 2004 Corps Day picnic



3

"This is fun, but are those clouds I see forming?" (thinks Ian, son of Jared and Jeanne Carroll-Bates. Jeanne is an environmental engineer in HTRW Design Center.

Dear Ones:

May I take this means to pen you these few lines to say thank you to all of you who planned and executed the recent Corps' outdoor picnic at Sand Springs . . .

It was a nice sunny day when I arrived at the park and being a rocket scientist, I rolled down the windows of my car so it wouldn't get too hot. I also went through the BBQ buffet taking only a portion of the scrumptious food thinking I'll be back for seconds.

Participants were scattered all over the park enjoying the picnic but I felt bad because I couldn't recognize who they were and then BAM! The rains came and drenched everything but also we all congregated under a small shelter. We were crowded but were close each with the other.

I felt great fellowship with those I knew and met many new faces. Needless to say I didn't go for seconds on my food but was thankful because I needed to lose some weight.

After the rain had subsided I went by my car and lo and behold it was like a pond inside of my car. Oh well! I drove home in a ponded vehicle feeling great for having such a good time with all the good people from the Corps' office and dear ones from our projects far and near.

Again, to all of you, thanks for a memorable day! Much aloha!

Reggie Kikugawa



6

.. to be held another -- sunnier -- day!



7
Cheers!
or aloha!

Meet the DE

By Alicia Embrey and Mary Beth Hudson
Public Affairs Office



Col. Miroslav Kurka, Tulsa District commander

Growth, freedom, and flexibility for the future

The Change of Command ceremony is a time-honored tradition that formally symbolizes both an era of change and the continuity of authority. Each new commander brings his or her style and vision for the future, and Southwestern Division has welcomed several new commanders this year. Tulsa District's new leader, Col. Miroslav Kurka, is excited for himself and for the district.

"I know this district went through a restructuring, and there is a lot of angst as a result of that," said Col. Kurka. "But I want to assure people that I'm not thinking about that at all. What I'm looking at is the potential for growth -- growth in the capabilities of our workforce and in our partnerships with customers and stakeholders."

"I can use myself as an example," he said. "I've been a combat engineer for 24 years. I'm very good at blowing things up and taking an objective. I am also a very good staff officer and can put together an excellent tactical operations plan. But I haven't been a district commander before. I know how organizations work, how to work with different types of people, and how to matrix. But as far as the details of what a district commander does on a day-to-day basis, this is all new for me. So this is an area of great growth for me personally, and I love it. I think we all have to be flexible and capable of growing in different ways."

Col. Kurka says employees need the freedom and flexibility to take the initiative to discover what customers' needs are so they can be met. "In almost all cases, there will be growth in the way we work and how we work. We may also have growth in some programs and budgets while other programs shift effort to meet that growth or to support closer collaboration with a sister district's program. Our future will require great flexibility, open and honest communications, and extensive partnering with customers, stakeholders, and each other," he said.

While acquainting himself with district stakeholders and partners, Col. Kurka recently met with Col. Bird, the civil engineer for the Air Education Training Command. "We talked about many of the things we, as a district, do for the Air Force. He specifically mentioned the expertise of Tulsa District," Col. Kurka said.

In addition to excellent military relationships, Col. Kurka sees water management, contracting and hazardous, toxic, and radiologic waste work as strong suits for Tulsa District. "We are leading the way in many of these areas. I'm very confident of the future," he said. "Our military relations are superb, and we have more lakes than any other district. We have some real strengths and a lot of places that we can focus on. But there may be some areas where we would be better off sharing resources with another district. This has to be done corporately," he pointed out.

As the Corps 2012 culture develops, teams will work virtually, and leaders will have a regional outlook. As an example of that view, Col. Kurka spoke of Tulsa's aging workforce, many of whom are eligible for retirement now or will be within the next five years. He asked several rhetorical questions: "Where do we need to bring in new people in order to meet the future needs of our customers? Along with that, how can we do that better as a region so that all four districts in the Southwestern Division are not trying to bring in the same people and not trying to build miniature district empires? Is there a better way that we can share resources and better focus districts in key areas?"

Col. Kurka plans to look closely at the programs in Tulsa District that develop people such as Emerging Leaders and the Leadership Development Program to make sure they are developing people capable of meeting the challenges of the future.

This year, Southwestern Division and three of its four districts have new commanders, each with their individual style and vision. However, Kurka said they all have one thing in common -- a similar commitment to look for ways to "work together better."



MAPS work honored

Oklahoma City's river redevelopment work has been honored by the American Public Works Association. The revitalization of the North Canadian River was named the Environmental Project of the Year in the above \$10 million category and recognized the July 2004 *APWA Reporter*.

Portions of the project were constructed with federal cost sharing under the Corps of Engineers Continuing Authority Programs which allow aquatic, riverine, and bottomland hardwoods ecosystem restorations.

In addition to wetland and hardwood restoration, work on the project included construction of three low-water dams, trails, parks, boat ramps, and locks. The locks allow boats to navigate the river along a seven-mile series of lakes. The portion of the river where the multiple projects are located is now called the "Oklahoma River."

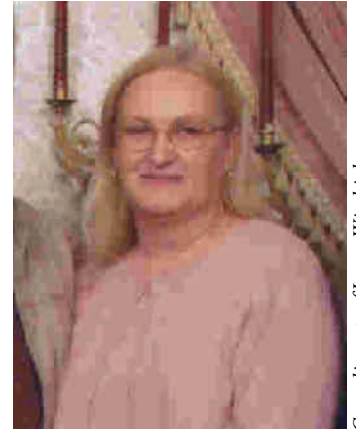
The river project is one of nine Metropolitan Area Projects in the Oklahoma City area funded by a temporary dedicated sales tax. Construction of the Corps portion of the project was overseen by the Central Oklahoma Resident Office. Paul Wolfgeher was construction project engineer and Wes Baker was construction representative. The Corps design project engineer was Stan Rohr, and Gene Lilly was the project manager.



Customer Care Award presented posthumously

On the same day that she passed away, Susan Wimbish of Real Estate Division was named the Customer Care Employee for the second quarter. Her family received the honor on her behalf.

Wimbish was nominated for her work as a program analyst. Her customers included all Real Estate Division employees and the Civil Works O&M Budget Committee.



Susan Wimbish

Compliments of Larry Wimbish

Earlier this year, while she was home dealing with the disease that later took her life, she asked her doctor to let her work from home to help maintain the budget. A workstation was set up in her home, and she participated in teleconferences with the various budget committees, enabling division business to continue as needed.

According to the nomination, she was in constant contact with the division chief and branch chiefs regarding funding issues.

Angela McPhee, acting chief of Real Estate Division, said ...

"Susan was an exemplary employee, dedicated to excellence. She was always conscientious of her responsibility as program analyst. Until the very end of her life, Susan did her best to accommodate all the many requests she received each day. Many times in the last year, Susan put her job above her health, much to the dismay of many who worked with and cared about her.

Susan was not just Customer Care Employee of the Quarter, but a Customer Care Employee and Friend of a Lifetime."



Employees support Iraqi recovery

Editor's Note: Some co-workers who have returned from their deployments have agreed to share first-person accounts of some of their experiences. Dan Bentley kicks the series off with his account.

"The Big Blue Truck"

When I deployed to Iraq my job focused primarily on the inspection of the pipeline repair work. During the war, many of the lines were damaged, some by sabotage by Iraqi forces and some by unfortunate hits by American and British firepower. Armor piercing rounds cannot tell the difference between the steel of an army tank and that of an oil pipeline. Some of the lines had been completely severed and had sustained severe fire damage. Others were riddled with holes about the size of a quarter by armor-piercing M-42 cluster bombs.

I had only been working in the country for a few days when my partner and I were approached by a group of Iraqi men looking for work. They had a big blue Mercedes Benz panel truck outfitted with a portable welder and all the tools of the trade needed to make pipeline repairs. Communication with them was difficult at first. My partner and I did not speak any Arabic, and we did not have an interpreter. Fortunately, the leader of the Iraqi group did speak a few words of English. He managed to tell us that they had worked in the oil fields before the war. He also told us they were former members of the Iraqi Army but had laid down their arms when the war began. He informed us that they were all family men with kids to feed. Our contractor had not been making satisfactory progress with the pipeline repairs. Here we had a group of men asking for work who had the right equipment and experience for the job, and they were motivated. The contractor hired them, and the Iraqis went to work immediately. On their first day they successfully patched and repaired many sites. Already, their efforts had increased the contractor's daily productivity by ten fold in pipeline repairs.

The Iraqi welders worked hard. Each day they would meet us at a rally point where we would direct them to the day's work. The workdays were long, and the Iraqis never took a meal break. We felt uncomfortable eating our military rations in front of them. They were obviously hungry, so the next day we brought

extra rations with us that had been especially prepared for the indigenous people. The meals had been stored on large pallets in an outside compound at Camp Commando in Kuwait. The cardboard boxes containing the meals were dirty and sun faded. Even so, the Iraqis were always very appreciative, but we noticed that each man usually ate only a little bite from his box and then put it away. When we asked why, the leader told us that they saved the rest to take home to their families at night.

One day we were working a pipeline break on a small 12-inch line in a very remote area several kilometers out into the desert. The area had apparently been the site of an Iraqi tank formation that was hit with armor piercing rounds. When M-42 sub-munitions hit armored vehicles, they explode issuing a copper jet that can burn through thick steel armor. When they hit soft sand they often do not explode and instead become antipersonnel mines that can kill and disable vehicles and soldiers passing by. Unexploded M-42 sub-munitions littered the ground all around the work site. The only safe path took us through a low spot between two sand dunes. The heavy vehicle made it through without incident, and the welders quickly repaired the damaged

pipeline. Late in the day, on the return trip through the low spot, the big truck became stuck in the sand. The Iraqis knew that they had to get their truck out of the sand before sundown, or it would surely fall prey to scavengers and looters. The Iraqis, my partner, and I worked to free the vehicle using shovels, boards, and desert brush, but the truck just sank deeper.

My partner used our satellite telephone to call for help. He contacted the prime contractor to ask for a backhoe to dig out the truck. We were told that the backhoe was all the way back across the border in Kuwait and that they could not get to us before dark. We

continued to work to free the big truck but were not having any success. The vehicle was stuck now all the way down on the back axle and both front wheels were more than half buried in the sand. It was now very late in the afternoon and time for us to leave for the rally point and the head count before crossing back into Kuwait. We did not want to leave the Iraqi welders out in the desert at night, and we knew they would stay with the truck since it was their only means of feeding their families.

It seemed absolutely hopeless. Then, someone saw the dust trail of an approaching vehicle in the distance. Several minutes later, a bus drove up. It was one of our American subcontractors.



Dan Bentley and Alan "Big Al" Steinecke at Gas & Oil Separation Plant 3-R in southern Iraq. Steinecke works in Fort Worth District, and is the partner referred to in the story.

He had heard of our situation and had come to our aid with the only help he had available — an entire bus loaded with laborers. The group included many nationalities from Pakistan, India, Kuwait, Germany, Canada, and England. We now had a group of more than 40 men. Each spoke his own language as he worked with the man next to him to dig out a path for the stuck vehicle. It was a Babylon of voices, each trying to communicate with the other. When it came time for the first attempt to push the vehicle out of the sand, the American contractor stood in front of the vehicle and orchestrated our efforts. Everyone positioned themselves behind and to the sides of the truck. The first couple of attempts failed. On the third attempt, all hands were pushing on the truck, and it began to move forward. The tires spun in the sand, and everyone strained against the vehicle as it broke free of the desert's grip. Moans and groans turned to cheers as the heavy vehicle rolled onto solid ground.

At that moment we all spoke the same language of exhilaration and good will. At that moment we were all one people united in a common cause to save the big blue truck. We had overcome the barriers of language, religion, and politics to rescue an Iraqi vehicle and save it from the perils of the coming desert night. The moment faded as cheers and applause subsided. Soon each man had returned to his native tongue and had begun talking to his fellow countrymen. But, for a time we had all seen the possibilities. President Kennedy said it best while delivering the commencement address at the American University in Washington, D.C., in 1963. It was the time of the cold war, and he shared his hope for world peace. He told the graduates:

"So, let us not be blind to our differences — but let us also direct attention to our common interests and to the means by which those differences can be resolved. And if we cannot end now our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity. For, in the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal."

Forty years later in the Iraqi desert I saw these same truths with the rescue of the big blue truck.

Day three in Country - Aug. 13

by Ross Adkins

Currently serving as Gulf Region Division's PAO

Yesterday was a full day that started at 7:00 a.m. with a working breakfast. Because there has been an increase in shelling of the international zone, we have to wear our heavy Kevlar vest and helmet to meals and to and from the office. (Vest weighs about 35 pounds.) I knew I really needed to exercise, but I hadn't planned to do with extra 40 pounds slung around my neck. During a press conference later in the day, I met an artist who did sketches for newspapers and magazines. While waiting for the conference to get underway, he drew a very good sketch of me



The Tigris River serves as a backdrop for Ross Adkins of Tulsa District's Public Affairs Office. He is deployed and serving as chief, PAO, for the Gulf Region Division.

complete with the name tape on my uniform and gave it to me, signed both in English and Arabic. I was very impressed with the local Arabic reporter's friendliness. The only thing he would accept back, as is the custom here, was an Army pen. Fortunately it was one of the better U.S. Army recruiting pens.

After working late, we were on our way back to our trailers when we heard gunfire and saw a flare being launched. The gunfire picked up in intensity to include tracers arching up into the sky. It was really spectacular -- almost like a Fourth of July fireworks show. A little scary, but none of the shooting seemed to be aimed our way. They sounded the take-cover alarm, and we immediately went into a concrete bunker. Looking out we could still see the tracers. We learned that Iraq defeated Portugal in an Olympic soccer game. It was their way of celebrating -- a little frightening, although they weren't aimed our way. However you never know where a bullet fired into the air will come back to earth.

You know, that 40 pounds of Kevlar was suddenly a lot lighter.

Day six, all OK

... You may be waking up to news of a rather noisy day in Baghdad's international zone. Everyone safe; it is noisy, but far enough away to lower the stress level. Last night we had worked through dinner and at about 9:30 decided to call it quits and go eat at an in-zone Chinese restaurant. As we were going out the door there was a very close loud bang. We decided to stay at work a little longer. One of our people came in to tell us he had seen it land in the river just a few hundred yards away from the building. It landed in about the middle of the river behind me in the picture. By the way, that is the Tigris River. After about 20 minutes with no more bangs, we went to dinner. Can't say much for the food, but it appeared to be cooked by a Chinese cook.

See FEST, page 15

Promises, promises

By Edward Engelke, Public Affairs Office

It's the political season and now, perhaps more than any other time in the year, promises are made. Often, promises are received with skepticism – and justifiably so. Sometimes, the most we can do is hope that promises are not simply a covering for something painful. We have all experienced painful broken promises.

Here are a couple of questions:

- What promise has the Corps of Engineers made as it invents a new self through the 2012 process?
- More importantly, what proof can be shown that can change resigned acceptance or even skepticism into enthusiastic willingness to participate?

We are shown the promise of a better future in opening pages of the “USACE 2012 - Main Report.”

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has reached another turning point in its 228-year history. Since it was first established, the Corps has responded to the nation's call in peace and war, adapting whenever necessary to meet the nation's changing needs. Now the early years of a new century, it is time for the Corps to change again. USACE 2012 is the path we will take to the future.

We're told that 2012 is the vehicle we will use to get to the future. It is tied directly to the Corps Strategic Vision statement.

The world's premier public engineering organization responding to our nation's needs in peace and war. A full spectrum Engineer Force of high quality, dedicated soldiers and civilians; trained and ready, a vital part of the Army, dedicated to public service, an Army values-based organization.

I can't object to anything in the Strategic Vision. We are those things – and more! Every employee can believe it – and we should reflect it. We should tell people about our vision and use our accomplishments as proof of our success. After all, accomplishments show that the Strategic Vision isn't just a finely crafted communication package.

Okay, but what about 2012? What exists to show where it's taking us or what its accomplishments will be?

The answer ... very little.

We must recognize that USACE 2012 is too new to have many visible proofs of success. It's an infant (if you'll allow the analogy). It is an infant program being experienced by us for the first time. But while finding proof is difficult, it is not impossible.

I had the opportunity to attend the “Command Inspection” in the Tulsa District July 27-28. If the term “Command Inspection” bothers you, welcome. If you would like to consider it a “Command Assistance Visit,” “Command Staff Review,” or “Command Staff Visit,” please do. All of those terms were used for the visit on one document or another.

Prior to July 27, the term “Command Inspection” meant these things to me:

- We are coming to see if you are executing your program in a manner which pleases us;
- We are going to see if you have followed the policies we've directed you to follow; and
- We're coming to see if you remember just “who” you work for.

Following July 27, the term “Command Inspection” means:

- We're joining with you as a regional team to see how we can work together and improve our business functions and interactions by focusing on the People, Processes, and Communications areas of the Corps Strategic Goals.

That's what I experienced when members from USACE Headquarters and Southwestern Division offices came to Tulsa. They joined members from the district and worked in teams aligned to the three areas of emphasis. Together, the teams evaluated not the Tulsa District – but the entire regional and national effort.

We, Tulsa District, found that we were doing many things quite well. We were doing some things which could be exported to other districts within the regional team. We were doing some things which could have been done differently and better. We also found that headquarters and division had changes they could make to help support our district's continuing success.

If this had been a true “inspection,” the district would have had a long list of boxes checked “Successful,” “Unsuccessful,” or “Needs Improvement” and the inspection team would have departed, leaving changes to be made in their wake. However, at the end of this staff visit, every level of the organization – district, division, and headquarters – left with items to address to help the regional team work better.

How revolutionary is that?!

The out brief also became proof I needed to show that USACE 2012 is a program we can enthusiastically accept. Col. Jeffrey Dorko, SWD commander said, “We are well on the path to becoming a seamless team composed of district, division, and headquarters members.” Working together to solve problems and make things better is the Corps 2012 goal.



Challenges, challenges

This aerial photo shows a logjam on the Neosho River near John Redmond Reservoir in Kansas that is creating controversy. The logjam has been building since the 1970s, but recent rains and high waters have caused it to grow significantly. By mid-August, the logjam was estimated to be about a mile and a quarter long.

The logjam formed when built-up sediments created a mud flat where the river enters the lake. Slowly, tree debris built up to create the jam. According to news reports, this year's winter ice storms and heavy summer rains caused it to grow from a half a mile in length to more than a mile and a quarter in just two months.

The Strawn Boat Ramp shown in this photo previously provided access to the river and the lake, but is now

unusable. Local, county, state, and federal agencies and officials, members of the public, and elected officials are focused on the issue, seeking a solution.

The public land at the logjam site is a wildlife refuge. There is no indication that the logjam is negatively impacting flood-control operations or is detrimental to the refuge, according to Tulsa District spokespersons.

An ad hoc committee has been formed to look for possible options to remedy the situation.

The people of Jacobs Creek Landing in northeast Coffey County will be particularly interested in the committee's work. The logjam now comes within 200 yards of the nearest residence in that community.

Evolution of a program

By Dave Harder and John Sparlin

The Support for Others program gave birth to what is now called the Native American Program. This program started in 1998 with President Clinton's directive for federal agencies to provide technical assistance to Native American tribes on a reimbursable basis. John Wagner and John Sparlin initiated Tulsa District's program by making cold calls on tribes in Oklahoma. They began a dialogue with the Southern Plains Office of Native American Programs, a HUD office in Oklahoma City.

That office had lost some people and most of its technical capability in the Murrah Building bombing. As the funding source for the tribes for all HUD programs, the office was anxious to gain the Corps assistance and immediately began encouraging the tribes to use the Corps as project facilitator and quality assurance

inspector on HUD-funded projects. The first project was in 1998 for a new office building for the Quapaw Tribe at Quapaw, Okla.

As time passed, tribe after tribe signed interagency agreements. Tulsa District now has Memoranda of Understanding with 26 of the 39 federally-recognized tribes of Oklahoma. The Corps works for a tribe as their "public works department" and facilitates the oversight of the design and construction of projects.

The Native American Program team now has three members: John Sparlin of Programs and Project Management Division and Dave Harder and Harry Hartwell, Construction Branch, Engineering and Construction Division. The team helps the tribes with oversight of all project activities from advertising for a contractor, guiding the architect and tribe through



Stand pipe of the Iowa water distribution system

the design phase, negotiating project costs, reviewing invoices, and quality assurance checks. New projects come on line each year as HUD offers an annual Indian Community Development Block Grant program.

During its six years of existence, the Native American Program has completed 57 projects, totaling about \$30 million. They include child day care centers, community multi-purpose buildings, fresh water treatment systems and improvement systems, wastewater treatment systems, wellness centers, health center additions, elder housing units, and many others.

Several tribes have also expressed interest in Corps projects such as recreation, water supply, and navigation.



Delaware Daycare Center at Chelsea



Thlopthlocco Community Daycare Center

Project Development Team of the quarter

The Wichita Basin Chloride Control Re-evaluation Project Delivery Team has been named the team of the quarter for the second quarter of the fiscal year.

According to the nomination, the Wichita Basin Chloride Control Project is the only project of its kind within the Corps and the nation focusing on diversion methods to reduce naturally occurring brine emissions. That reduction will result in more economical water use for municipal, industrial, and agricultural purposes. On Nov. 13, 1997, due to environmental concerns raised by various resource agencies, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works recommended the Corps delay construction on the Red River Chloride Control Project and perform a complete re-evaluation of the Wichita River Basin chloride control features.

In addition to their comprehensive re-evaluation, the team addressed concerns to a level of detail well beyond traditional environmental coordination. This work included:

- Development of a one-of-kind agricultural production model that showed potential future development with increased agricultural irrigation and runoff.
- Analysis of naturally occurring selenium and the potential impacts to the Truscott brine containment facility.
- Research of golden algae bloom at Lake Diversion and Lake Kemp and possible impacts to the downstream fish hatchery.
- Exhaustive fishery research at Lake Kemp and as far downstream as Lake Texoma.
- Analysis of possible low flow conditions downstream of the proposed diversion structures.

Wichita Basin Chloride Control Re-evaluation Team

Richard Bilinski	Ann Young
Dallas Tomlinson	Paula Willits
Ed Rossman	Kent Smith
Chad Rainwater	Ray Barnes
Vicky Weatherly	Steve Cone
David Combs	Joel Fuchs
Randy Beauchamp	Dennis Duke
JoAnn Duman	Pam McCarn
Ted McCleary	David Gade
Joel Trautmann	Marc Masnor
Colleen Diven	Steve Nolen
Richard Thomas	Tony Clyde
Ed Engelke	Jim Sullivan
Lance Wood	Maria Wegner
Denise Henderson	Kay Hoover
Tracy Cartwright	Debra White
Peat Robinson	Cherrie Dean
Brent Vanderpol	Peter Shaw
Richard McCanlies	Paul Blakey
Fred Kloeckler	Ken Lehman

The PDT undertook a publicly supported but at times highly controversial study. Success was accomplished through extensive and conclusive research efforts. Even though emotions sometimes ran high, the PDT rose to the occasion by maintaining their integrity and professionalism. They exemplified true *esprit de corps* despite many false accusations.

During the final submittal and review of the Draft Re-evaluation Report with Record of Decision, the PDT provided exceptionally responsive support to SWD and HQUSACE review teams. Often, they worked long hours to ensure that the review teams received supporting documentation and legislative archival research information as soon as possible.

A well-earned tribute to their professionalism and expertise came from the local office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. During discussions concerning potential selenium concentration issues at the Truscott Brine Facility, a USFWS representative said there were no other "experts" in the area of selenium research who had performed more research than the PDT, and that they are now referenced as the experts for this type of analysis.



Angie Short Mendoza

From left: Col. Kurka, Richard Bilinski, Ed Engelke, Jim Sullivan, Debra White, Steve Nolen, Cherrie Dean, Randy Beauchamp, Maria Wegner, Ted McCleary, Marc Masnor, Pam McCarn, Kay Hoover, Joel Fuchs, and Colleen Diven.

Keystone Lake is appreciated

Restoring ancient wetlands



Keystone Lake Appreciation Day volunteers prepared 110 cedar trees for use as fish shelters.

The third annual Keystone Lake Appreciation Day was held Saturday, July 17. Activities were held at the Washington Irving South Public Use Area.

The celebration grew from the National Public Lands Day and is almost exclusively coordinated by volunteers. This year's event included preparing and placing 110 cedar trees and 15 PVC pipe tree fish shelters in various coves along the Arkansas River arm of the lake. There were also safety displays and activities for all ages, natural resources educational information, a Tulsa Life Flight helicopter display, courtesy public boating inspections, and assorted rides for the children.

Organizations participating included the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation; both Pawnee County and Creek County Sheriffs' offices; the Crime Commission, Safe Kids Coalition, and Saint Francis Life Flight, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary; the Tulsa Fire Department with Huffy the Clown and Friends; and the Wagoner Fire Department.

Gulf Region Division
Public Affairs Office

The Mesopotamian Marshlands, considered by many to be the cradle of civilization, were largely drained by Saddam Hussein's regime. Now the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is helping restore the historic wetlands.

Located between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, the marshes were once among the world's largest wetlands. Within this 8,000-square-mile area, the 5,000-year-old culture of the Madan, or Marsh Arabs, developed the first alphabet.

Before their destruction, the Mesopotamian Marshlands spanned an area roughly twice the size of the Florida Everglades. They were known for their biodiversity and cultural richness. The marshes were home to millions of birds, fish spawning and nursery areas, and various agricultural crops. The devastation seen under the hand of the former regime has been compared to the deforestation of the Amazon.

After putting down a rebellion by the Marsh Arabs at the end of the Gulf War, the Iraqi government set its full wrath upon the group, burning towns, killing livestock, and making the drainage of the marshlands a top priority. An estimated 150,000 people were displaced during this time; some were forced to relocate as many as 18 times.

By 1999, the marshlands had been reduced to seven percent of their original size. Many endemic species were lost, a natural filter system for waste and pollutants into rivers and the Persian Gulf was devastated, and an entire culture rich in history was destroyed. The area was in dire need of structure and rebuilding.

See Wetlands, page 17

*Hey, terns!
What's the deal?*



Tulsa District does annual surveys of Least terns, an endangered species. This year's first survey of the Red River turned up a couple of interesting sights -- a tern scrape (nest) with four eggs and one with a blue egg. Both are unusual occurrences. (View the *Tulsa District Record* at the library website to see these pictures in color.)

Scouts show appreciation



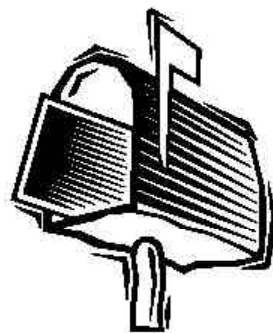
Deborah Yager and Glenda Vincent are shown with just a few of the Girl Scouts who have enjoyed the Willow Haven Day Camp at Oologah Lake over the years.

Park Ranger Glenda Vincent and the Oologah Lake Office were recently recognized for their contributions to the Girl Scouts. Deborah Yager, site director of the Willow Haven Day Camp for the Girl Scouts of the Magic Empire Council, nominated the Corps in recognition of five years of cooperation between the two organizations.

Ranger Vincent was presented the Celia and Ed Archer Award at the Annual Magic Empire Girl Scouts dinner. This award is presented to individuals and organizations that provide service with a council-wide effect that is deemed outstanding and beyond what is expected from the community.

In her nomination letter, Ms. Yager called the Corps instrumental in the success of the Willow Haven Day Camp over the past five years. The Corps, and in particular Ranger Vincent, ensure that a safe, enjoyable location is provided for an annual week of fun for more than 100 girls.

She went on to say that Ranger Vincent was always professional, friendly, and willing to go the extra mile for the scouts.



From the Mailbox

To Col. Kurka from Linda Mansur:

This past 10 days, I have had the absolute privilege of working with different employees within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa Division. These fine men and women need to be recognized for the day to day excellence they bring to their jobs and to us, their constituents.

My father and mother raised nine of their 11 children on the outskirts of Eufaula, Okla. They were farmers, and we children all look back on our lives there with them as a magical time of innocence and freedom that children today would envy. Today, it is a beautiful, quiet city by the "Gentle Giant" Lake Eufaula. To drive down 69 highway and cross the lake bridges at sunset is indescribably beautiful, yet hold wistful memories for those of us who remember it beforehand.

This past week, Cynthia Kitchens, Gary Cannon, and Angela McPhee have gone above and beyond their duties in helping me understand what happened in the history of this land purchase and subsequent reselling. They have been informative, professional, timely in their return calls, extremely empathetic and polite, factual, and most of all -- hard working in trying to help me on a journey that has been 30 years long. You can't know what their gentle words have meant to me. Knowing that they were our civil servants made me proud to be an American!

... What I wanted you to know was the deep appreciation I have for the Corps and the fine employees you have. They simultaneously helped me to have hope and closure for a dream for my father. Working with them has restored my faith in our government ... You would be so proud to know how they have conducted themselves and brought honor to the Corps this past week.

To Bill Parkerson, Arcadia Lake, from Wendy Jones and Sherre James, Schools for Healthy Lifestyles:

On behalf of all the elementary schools that participated, thank you for sponsoring Wacky Water Wahoo 2004. Schools for Healthy Lifestyles truly appreciates your continued support and willingness to help make this event a success.

The students and teachers had many positive comments to share about the day. Without the commitment of dedicated community partners like you, it would not be possible to educate so many students about the importance of water safety ...

... FEST

from page 9

Yesterday we went to the Gurka (from Nepal) chow hall. The food is excellent. I am writing this at about 4:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon, 7 a.m. Sunday morning your time. Again, it is hot, about 112-114 degrees. I am proud of myself. Today I drove myself to meetings at the big palace. I'm beginning to feel like I can get around by myself, at least in the Green Zone. The trick is to not get in the way of some of the high speed and heavily armed escorts. They don't stop for anything! ...

... Column

from page 2

perceptions and a failure on the part of management and non-management alike to see the whole picture.

I am still in the process of completing my assessment. Once I've completed it, the question is what to do about it. In October, we will have a transition conference where the leadership will collectively determine the direction the district will take over the next three years. For my part, I intend to provide focus in three main areas: PEOPLE, PROCESSES, and COMMUNICATIONS. My initial thoughts on these areas are outlined below:

PEOPLE:

My number one job as the district commander is to take care of our PEOPLE and to ensure they develop and grow to meet future challenges. To ensure that we establish and maintain a working environment that encourages initiative and continuous personal and professional development, we are closely analyzing the results of the 2003 Civilian Morale Survey, the results of the Southwestern Division Command Support Visit, and my own impressions from my discussions with many of you. I have asked Marjorie Courtright to lead a 10-person team representing the entire district to review the 2003 Civilian Morale Survey results and to develop courses of action to solve problems identified in the survey. I've also asked my deputy, Lt. Col. Perry, to examine our personnel policies with the intent of providing greater flexibility to supervisors. Finally, I am examining our Leadership Development Program, New Employee Orientation Program, and Emerging Leader Program to determine what changes, if any, we need to make in order to continue to develop our workforce for the challenges of the 21st century.

PROCESSES:

We have great PROCESSES. Our challenge is to maintain our cutting edge leadership as a district and adapt our PROCESSES to a regional focus as the Southwestern Division continues to implement the Regional Business Center concept. We must ensure that our PROCESSES continue to focus on the customer. They must facilitate partnerships with customers, help them identify key infrastructure requirements, and then provide the best-value solution. To do this effectively we must work with our customers, the division, our sister districts, other federal agencies, state and local governments, and private contractors. We will need to provide services in new ways using a variety of

means. This will require flexibility and innovation. After speaking to many of you, I am confident we can do this.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Externally, we communicate very well, and our reputation for quality and value engineering is our best advertisement. Our challenge is to maintain these excellent communications with congress and our customers despite changes in key district staff.

Internally, our challenge is to ensure all district members understand the whole picture -- specifically the goals and objectives of the district, the needs of our customers, and the resource constraints we face. It is also important that the district leadership understand the challenges faced by our members on the "front lines" who are dealing with our customers on a daily basis.

To these ends, I strongly believe that open and honest communications are the hallmark of trust and good leadership. I also

believe in getting out and seeing with my own eyes what is happening throughout the district. I've told my deputy and division chiefs that I require them to give me their full, unvarnished advice and opinions at all times. I especially want to know from them if they think I am making a mistake. I may not follow their advice, but I will always consider it. I offer this same "open door" to all of you. Please feel free to contact me directly with your issues and advice. I will always listen.

"We communicate very well, and our reputation for quality and value engineering is our best advertisement. Our challenge is to maintain these excellent communications with congress and our customers ..."

Col. Kurka

As I continue my visits to offices, project sites and customers, I will continue to gather data and refine my direction for the next three years. Concurrently, the staff is planning our October transition conference. That conference will include division chiefs, branch chiefs, and emerging leaders. At that conference, we will work in groups to turn the broad direction outlined above into concrete policies that we can implement. I encourage you to contact your leaders and give them your ideas so that they can be examined as part of this transition.

Thanks to your hard work and expertise, we have an excellent reputation with our customers. This has put the Tulsa District on a solid foundation as the U.S. Army and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continue to transform to meet the challenges of the 21st century. As I continue with my transition, I am confident that with your help and participation, we can maintain and enhance Tulsa District's reputation as the region's premier public engineering organization. We have a great mission and a bright future!

ESSAYONS!



New Additions

Chloe Marie and Mallory Leigh Adkins, July 2, twin daughters of Tim and Lisa Adkins. Tim is a park ranger at Waurika Lake.

Nathaniel Jackson Wollard, July 1, son of Karen and Jeremy Wollard, Houston, Texas. Nathaniel is the third grandson of Maggie Hellwege, EEO, and the first child of her youngest daughter.

Dylan Danial Tyner, July 15, son of Adam and Ashley Tyner and grandson of Mike and Dana Lowry. Mike is a park ranger at Council Grove Lake.



Congratulations! & Happy Birthday

Emmett Graves, retiree, celebrated his 100th birthday on Aug. 7. His children hosted a party in his honor at Brighton Gardens in Tulsa.

Condolences

Ed Sandwell, former maintenance worker at Marion Reservoir for about 25 years, died in late June. He served our nation during World War II and participated in the D-Day landing at Normandy. He was appreciated for his meticulous and dedicated work ethic.

David Daniel, 39-year-old son of Carolyn Daniel, passed away July 3 of injuries received in a motorcycle accident. Carolyn recently retired from Contracting Division's Industrial Relations Branch.

Jerry VanHoozer, retiree and classic car aficionado, died July 13.

After a valiant battle with cancer, **Susan Wimbish** passed away July 15. At the time of her death, she was a budget analyst in Real Estate Division. Before the district's restructuring, she worked at Truscott Project. Dennis Duke, project manager at Truscott, conducted her funeral service.

Mildred Houser, grandmother of Mike Lowry, passed away July 15. Mike is a park ranger at Council Grove Lake.

Ida Nona Pierce Bonine was 93 years, 7 months, and 13 days of age when she died on July 17. She was the mother of retiree, Bea Frevele.

Doris Day, mother of Ramona Wagner, passed away July 25. Ramona is chief of the Military/HTRW Branch, PPMD.

... Wetlands

from page 14

The U.S. Agency for International Development is leading the effort. USAID and the Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources, along with the Army Corps of Engineers, are developing a water management model that will aid efforts to reconstruct Iraq's historic water flow system and restore its marshes.

To help the remaining marshland population and support other U.S. efforts to secure Iraq's infrastructure, USAID turned to the Corps' Hydrologic Engineering Center for its expertise in modeling water management in large watershed systems. HEC is responding by developing a Reservoir Simulation Model. This model will provide real-time simulation to help U.S. officials and the new Iraqi leadership make smart operational decisions to maintain and update the country's complex system of dams and canals.

"After the invasion, Iraq's dam and infrastructure system was intact, but the institution was in disarray," said HEC Director Darryl Davis. "The Ministry of Water headquarters building was burned and their ability to manage the complex system of dams and barrages was significantly compromised. This model will provide modern technology for use in both day-to-day operation decisions and long-term water resource management studies."

A training program between HEC and the ministry will integrate the model into Iraqi officials' decision-making process. Once put in place, officials said the timely data from the Tigris and Euphrates rivers it provides can be used by other organizations.

The partnership between the Army Corps of Engineers and USAID is designed to eventually restore the ecosystem through improved management of the nation's water infrastructures and natural resources, officials said.



American Red Cross

Give the gift of life.

Blood drives scheduled at the Tulsa Corps office: Nov. 10 & Feb. 18

At the August drive, 23 units were donated. Thank you to all who gave or tried to give. You give life!

District's "Gentle Giant" turns 40

Editor's Note: Sept. 25, 2004, will mark the 40th anniversary of the dedication of Eufaula Dam and Reservoir, a big day in Tulsa District's history. What follows are excerpts from the "Dedication Program Plans Finalized for Eufaula," announced by Dr. Charles Mitchell of Checotah, president of the Eufaula Lake Development Association.

... President Lyndon B. Johnson will be the featured speaker in the mid-afternoon. Presidential honors and National Anthem will be played by the Henryetta High School Band; invocation by Reverend Harrel Biard, pastor of the Federal Presbyterian Christian Church of Checotah; welcome by Governor Henry Bellmon; Recognition of Guests by Congressman Ed Edmondson; Introduction of the President by Congressman Carl Albert; and benediction by Reverend Leonard Cronin, pastor of the First Methodist Church of Poteau.

Plans are being made for a crowd of 50,000 people. An entertainment program, featuring Oklahoma talent, will begin at 10 a.m. ...

The \$120 million dam is two-thirds of a mile long and 11 stories tall. The powerhouse has three 30,000-kilowatt generators, enough for a city the size of Sioux City, Iowa. The project, built under the supervision of the Tulsa District



The following text accompanied this photo released to the press prior to the Sept. 25, 1964, dedication:

THE SEVENTH LARGEST MAN-MADE LAKE in the United States . . .

Eufaula Reservoir spreads into seven eastern Oklahoma counties and has an area greater than one-fourth the land surface of Rhode Island. The lake will have a normal shoreline of 600 miles. About 140 miles of highways and 33 miles of railroads were relocated around and across the reservoir. Millions of visitors annually will take advantage of the modern transportation net as they throng to the largest lake in the Southwest. About 15 million people visited the ten completed Corps of Engineers reservoirs in Oklahoma last year.

Corps of Engineers, will provide flood control, hydroelectric power, and water supply.

It will also directly help navigation on the Arkansas River, 27 miles below the dam, by controlling silt and augmenting flows. The Corps of Engineers plans to complete the 450-mile barge canal from the Mississippi River to the vicinity of Tulsa by 1970.



(Left) President Lyndon Baines and First Lady "Lady Bird" Johnson mount the grandstand for the Eufaula Dam and Reservoir dedication.

(Top) Dignitaries listen and secret service agents scan the crowd while President Johnson speaks.

(Bottom) Some of the thousands who gathered at the dedication of Eufaula Lake.





Family News

Kourtney Puckett knows Character

Gale Puckett, facilities maintenance inspector at the Fall River Lake Office, is one very proud father. His daughter, Kourtney Puckett, 15-year-old freshman at Fredonia high school in Kansas, brought home the gold this summer from a national competition.

Giving her "Blueprint for Character" speech, Kourtney wowed judges at the Students Taking Action with Recognition contest.

A member of Future Career and Community Leaders of America, Kourtney swept the STAR contests, taking district in February, state in April, and nationals in July. At the national contest in Chicago, the three-judge panel scored her presentation at 99, 99, and 98 points out of a possible 100.

In her blueprint, Kourtney discusses six pillars of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

Couple catch one big fish

B.J. Parkey, Park Ranger

When Mickey and Lesa Pierce, of Sterling, Okla., recently came out to camp at Waurika Lake, they never expected their visit would earn them a spot in the local newspapers.

One evening, the Pierces headed out on the water to check their juglines before it got too dark. Jug after jug they checked with moderate success, landing a few small bluecats. When it was time to reel in the last jug, they optimistically hoped to have a good catch on this one. As Lesa pulled in the jug, she relayed to Mickey, "here's one," a blue that weighed about two pounds. On the next hook down, there was another blue that weighed seven pounds. Then Lesa discovered that she could not pull the jug up any further.

The couple thought their line must be caught up on some brush. Then, Lesa felt a huge tug at the other end of the line. After pulling, panting, and sweating, they finally saw what had been resisting them, one large flathead.

Mickey scooped up the massive fish with a net, placed it in the boat, and headed for shore. Anxiously anticipating weighing the fish and maybe pondering a possible state record, they set out to find a set of scales. After a short search, they found one and weighed the fish -- 91 pounds unofficially!

The unrestricted state record for a flathead was set in 1977 and stands at 106 pounds. Even though Mickey and Lesa Pierce missed a state record with their flathead, they probably did set a Waurika Lake record for the largest flathead and possibly the largest fish of any kind caught from the lake.

The couple kept the flathead overnight to get some pictures and show friends. The next day, to the sound of breaking hearts and the sight of falling tears, Mickey, with the help of his brother-in-law Joe High, turned the massive fish loose. Mickey stated,



Mickey Pearce, left, and his brother-in-law, Joe High, hold the 91-pound "whopper" caught at Waurika Lake in July.